

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11, 13-15, 19, and 21-25 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Claims 2, 8, 12, 18, 26, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 15, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge that Claims 8, 9, 18, and 19 are considered to contain allowable subject matter. Regarding the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, Applicants would like to note that Claims 9 and 19 each recite, in part, that a table stores a concatenation distortion, not a modification distortion.

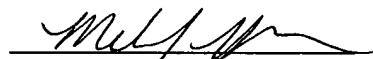
Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 26-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,769 ("Acero"). Claims 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Acero in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,641 ("Coorman"). Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to include the features of allowable Claims 8 and 18, respectively. Accordingly, the independent claims are submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are submitted to be patentable for the same reasons that their respective base claims are patentable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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